



Election Time

—By Robert KA5WSS

How about a more serene, sedate election, this time for VOMARC officers? November is election season for the club just as it is for the country. It appears all current officers are willing to stand for re-election. But there's always room for alternative viewpoints and strategies. So bring any last minute candidates, such as yourself, along with your votes to this month's meeting.

In case you've lost track of who's an officer, look at the end of this newsletter at the "CAST OF CHARACTERS" section. Note that we have a vacant post of Vice President given the untimely death of our leader and friend Jim Hill (K6UUW).

We'll also be voting on the By-Laws changes that were published in last month's newsletter. we received no comments or corrections to the text as presented, so we'll vote yes or no to incorporate the changes into our organizational document.

After getting the business of the organization out of the way we'll feature a presentation from Richard Dillman (W6AWO) on Marconi's audacious plan to use radio to compete with the undersea cable communication in the early days of wireless. Communications have come a long

way since then but we can see that the battle for market dominance between conflicting technologies is hardly a new phenomenon.

NEXT MEETING

Wed, November 18, 2020, 7:30pm
Zoom meeting room info will be emailed later.

Topic: Marconi's Busines Plan
Presenter: Richard Dillman (W6AWO)

Minutes, October 21 Meeting

Meeting was once again very successfully held on ZOOM by KA5WSS and substitute KD6FIL

KA5WSS (Robert), KD6FIL (Dave), KE6HID (Andrew), KM6ZUC (Bruce), KG6QNT (Eileen), W5LTP (Sam), N6TVN (Carl), NJ6E (Stan), N6LY (Elizabeth), K6YD (Kevin), WB6TMH (Mike), N7PIB (Sanford), N7TSQ (Joe), KF6FZM (Dick), W8EWL (John)

Guest: KD6W (Joel)

Meeting called to order at 19:30 by junior zoomster KD6FIL

MINUTES

Minutes from the September meeting accepted as written.

VE Liaison

Need to get reimbursed for the cash box.

Looking at December 19 as a possible date for VE Session.

TREASURER

Currently have \$4,636 in the bank. VOMARC set it up to pay dues online.

See New Business for printer authorization.

SECRETARY

No Updates. The VOMARC Breakfast on the Air is going well.

Training

School closed.

PRESIDENT

A new weekly net script has been uploaded to the website.

W6AJF has been updated on QRZ.com.

By-Laws changes were in the newsletter. They will be voted on next month.

Nominations for next month's election (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, VE Liaison, Newsletter Editor, Radio Officer and Trustee) <http://vomarc.org/officers.html>

OLD BUSINESS

Donated equipment that is for sale, is posted to the VOMARC Web Page.

KD6FIL is still working on the book list.

Books in the VOMARC library available to loan.

NEW BUSINESS

The club needs a printer/copier/scanner for the VE Sessions. A motion was made, Seconded and unanimously approved to authorize the treasure to spend up to \$150 for an all in one printer. The printer will be kept at the Sonoma EOC Radio room. It can be used for the Winlink Station when needed.

New Members

Randy Hall, AA6RH

Leland Gee, W6GEE

The Sonoma County DMR net is still going at 1830 on Thursdays on talk group 31707.

KA5WSS has created an email reflector for the club. Go to VOMARC.org and look at the bottom of the right side of the page.

<https://vomarc.groups.io/g/announcements>

Mystery Box: Jack, K6ZMF has the box and the Mystery Box program is on hold for a while

Next Month's Program: Radio on the High Seas by W6AWO.

PROGRAM: Operating at or Near 10 GHz by Joel Wilhite, KD6W

Meeting adjourned at 2115.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

VE Sessions Returning To Sonoma!

VOMARC will be holding a Licensing testing session on December 19, 2020 at the Sonoma Police Station EOC room, 126 1st St W, Sonoma. The location where monthly meetings used to be!

We will hold two sessions, if we have enough interest.

Session number 1 will be at 10:00 AM

Session number 2 will be at 12:30 PM (if we fill session #1)

Due to limited space, all candidates must reserve, by emailing VE Liaison.

Please include in your email, your full name, contact phone number, which license you are testing for.

Due to COVID -19

- **All VEs and candidates must wear a mask and gloves.**
- Please bring your own pens and pencils.

- We will be limiting seating to 6 candidates, socially distanced at 6 feet apart
- All tables and chairs will be sanitized before each session

Check out the [VOMARC licensing page](#) for more information.

—Submitted by Elizabeth N6LY

ACS Activation for the October PSPS Event

Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management requested an Auxiliary Communication Service (ACS) Activation to cover the auxiliary communications needs during the PG&E PSPS (Public Safety Power Shutdown) commencing on Sunday, October 25th. Fifteen ACS Volunteers signed up to provide coverage in the Sonoma County Operational Area Emergency Operations Center and at numerous AERS (Alternative Emergency Reporting Stations) throughout Sonoma County. The incident plan called for communications coverage on Monday, October 26th through Wednesday, October 28th between 0700 to 1800 hours daily at the following community locations: Cazadero, Bennett Valley, Knights Valley, Kenwood, Forestville, Sebastopol and Monte Rio.

On Tuesday at 0700 hours the Stand Down order was issued as prevailing conditions had changed and the threat subsided.

For more information concerning the Sonoma County Auxiliary Communications Program go to: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/DEM/Auxiliary-Communications-Service/>

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

Jim Hill's (K6UUW) Antennas Come Down

On Saturday, November 7th VOMARC members WB6BOR, KG6N, W1EJ, N6TVN, WB6TMH and

KD6FIL performed the sad task of removing the Amateur Radio installation of our recently deceased former President Jim Hill (K6UUW).



—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL



—Photo by Mike WB6TMH

Jim Tiemstra (K6JAT) SK

Sorry, but we have more sad news. ARRL Pacific Division Director Jim Tiemstra (K6JAT) [passed away at the age of 65](#) after retiring as an attorney in 2018. Some of you may recall him as being the speaker at our last in-person VOMARC meeting in February. He had previously served as Vice-Director for the division and held a number of positions in East Bay area clubs. Jim Hill (K6UWU) and I had touched base with Jim several times at Division meetings of club officers and thought highly of him. Vice-Director Kristen McIntyre (K6WX) will take over the Director spot.



Jim speaking at the February VOMARC meeting.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Who's Doing What

The [official results of the Kansas QSO Party](#) have been released and our own Carl (N6TVN) claimed first place in the single-op QRP category. Great job! Carl also made 219 QSOs in ARRL CW Sweepstakes while running only 5 watts.

Sanford (N7PIB) has worked over 600 [parks on the air](#). He is also just a couple of Japanese Prefectures short of working them all. His recently installed solar power system has come in handy during the recent power outages.

Stan (NJ6E) has been working with his new [Kiwi SDR receiver](#). He intends to put it online at some point. He's also working on a [Raspberry Pi based transceiver that covers 50 MHz - 6 GHz](#).

Kevin (K6YD) made lots of QSOs on 15M during the CQWW Phone contest. Are band conditions looking up?

Ed (W1EJ) erected his Ed Fong (WB6IQN) J-Pole antenna. He had purchased it following a presentation Mr. Fong gave at a previous VOMARC meeting.

Robert (KA5WSS) achieved Worked All States (WAS) on 17M.

Kevin (K6YD) and **Elizabeth (N6LY)** received certificates in the 13 Colonies Special Event. (see photos below.)

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS



—Photos submitted by Kevin K6YD

Military HF Renaissance

Special operations commands in Europe are increasingly looking to HF radios to provide connectivity on the battlefield. Satellite disruptions and continued planning and training in anti-satellite attacks have prompted several governments to look at expanding the breadth of their communications.

Moving down in frequency does not mean a return to the old modes of communication. The new HF systems being put into place use ALE (Automatic Link Establishment) to automatically select channels and bands to use based on link analysis. Data rates up to 240 kilobytes per second are also possible in some cases.

So it's not a simple case of everything old is new again. Perhaps a better saying would be, you can teach an old dog new tricks.

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/battlefield-tech/it-networks/2020/09/22/the-military-renaissance-in-high-frequency-communications/>

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Clean Sweep In Sweepstakes

Working a Clean Sweep in the [Sweepstakes contest](#) will be a bit harder this year. With the introduction of [Prince Edward Island as a separate section](#) the total number of ARRL/RAC sections increases to 84. Working a "clean sweep" means working a station in all sections.

A whisk broom has been a trophy offered in the past. More recently, coffee mugs could be purchased when achieved. I've been fortunate to get a few of those in the past.

Sweepstakes is a great way to look for new states needed for your Worked All States award. The contest exchange seems complex, but it's not really that hard. You need a few elements:



- serial number (a running count of contacts made)
- power level (a.k.a. precedence, A for low power, B for high power)
- your callsign (you should know that)
- year you were licensed (last 2 digits)
- ARRL section (SF San Francisco for all of us)

So my exchange starting out might be something like:

1 A KA5WSS 85 SF

The only thing that changes is the serial number. Give it a shot.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

KDKA Turns 100 Years Old

Pittsburgh radio station KDKA will celebrate 100 years of radio broadcasting in November, and Pennsylvania radio amateurs will honor that milestone in a multi-station special event. KDKA dates its broadcasting history to the airing of the Harding-Cox presidential results on

November 2, 1920, and the station has been on the air ever since. The special event, which will involve the operation of four stations, will run through the entire month of November.

"More than 100 years ago, many experimenters started delving into a new technology known as wireless, or radio," said Bob Bastone, WC3O, Radio Officer for the Skyview Radio Society in New Kensington, Pennsylvania. Bastone explained that many of those early pioneers

were radio amateurs. "One hundred plus years later, many amateur radio operators are still contributing to wireless technology, while also serving their communities and enhancing international goodwill. Congratulations to KDKA Radio, also known in the early years as amateur radio stations 8XK, 8ZZ, and W8XK."

Special event stations K3K, K3D, K3A, and W8XK will set up and operate at several locations in Pennsylvania during November. Stations will determine their own modes and schedules. Visit the W8XK profile on QRZ.com for information on certificates and QSLs.

What became KDKA initially began broadcasting in 1916 as amateur radio station 8XK, licensed by the Federal Radio Commission (FRC), the predecessor to the FCC. At the time, amateurs were not prohibited from broadcasting. The small station was operated by Dr. Frank Conrad, who was Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company assistant chief engineer. The transmitter ran 75 W, and the broadcasts gained some popularity in Pittsburgh. The first transmissions of KDKA originated in a makeshift studio on the roof of Westinghouse K Building in East Pittsburgh.

Westinghouse Lodge Building in the 1920s. Some KDKA personnel are wearing hats that bear their ham radio call sign.

Ham radio clubs participating in the centennial special event include the North Hills Amateur Radio Club in Pittsburgh -- which is planning to operate from KDKA's 1930s transmitter site, where an original tower pier still stands. A 1920s transmitter site, in Forest Hills, will serve as another operating location. Other clubs will take part. Individual radio amateurs will operate from their own stations, and a small group of hams is planning a portable operation from South Park in suburban Pittsburgh.

"We amateur radio operators look forward to contacting thousands of other hams around the world to celebrate this huge milestone in the commercial broadcasting industry," said Bastone. Contact him for more information. Read more. -- *Thanks to ARRL Public Information Officer and Allegheny County ARES Emergency Coordinator Bob Mente, NU3Q, for providing the information for this story.*

—Submitted by Dan WA6CRB

Misc

We've added [Benicia Amateur Radio Club's](#) Get On The Air net to the [VOMARC events calendar](#). It takes place at 8:00 PM local time on Mondays at 7.282 MHz. Even modest, low 40M antennas should be sufficient to join in.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

QSL Card Inbox

Here's a long awaited card from Z35T in Macedonia. Or is it Northern Macedonia? Or rather, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia? It's... complicated. Most importantly, it counts for DXCC credit!



—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 24 EDITION 8

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Robert Barron KA5WSS – President

VACANT – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary

VACANT – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

Jim Hill K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS — Webmeister

"Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC."—S. Marler

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Black Bear Restaurant, 201 W Napa St, #34 (Marketplace Shopping Center), Sonoma. The fun starts at 08:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

—OR—

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

2020 ACS Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

2020 VOMARC Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	MOE	KI6JNU
AUGUST	CARL	N6TVN
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2020

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.